

the chronicle

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CAMPAIGN TO
SAVE CARE HOME**
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Clare gets parking ticket shock after she leaves her for repairs

A MOTORIST who left her car at a Dudley garage for repairs was slapped with a parking fine and hounded by debt collectors after a mechanic drove it to his bank and picked up a ticket.

Clare Griffiths was forced to pay out £198. She paid the amount to get a debt collection agency off her back after the garage worker was given a parking ticket on a pub car park in Kingswinford.

But Miss Griffiths, of Halesowen, has received an apology from the garage and a promise of her money back. A bouquet of flowers has also been dispatched.

Tim Barnes, retail operator for T Wall

Garages in Pensnett, said the mechanic in question no longer worked for the firm. He said: "I am ashamed and disappointed that this happened."

"It's a fair cop and we would have disciplined the technician if he had still been with us - but he has left our employment."

Harassed

"I have written a letter of apology to the customer and we will refund their costs."

"I am also sending her a bouquet of flowers and have created a £100 credit for her to spend at T Wall."

Miss Griffiths, aged 31, of Beecher Street, Colley Gate, finally paid £198 two

weeks ago because she was upset at being "harassed" by debt collectors.

Miss Griffiths, an accounts assistant and mother of a three-year-old son, Oliver, took her Ford Focus to T Wall Garages for repairs on May 24 and she collected it at 5pm that day.

But, in July, she discovered a debt collection agency was chasing her at her old address for payment of a parking ticket that had been issued at 4.20pm on May 24 on the car park at the Arizona Crossing pub.

"I was appalled that my vehicle had been taken out and left on a public house car park," said Miss Griffiths.



Clare Griffiths... hounded by debt collectors

Top Church under threat of closing

Seven churches in Dudley are facing closure as current fundraising efforts are "not enough" to keep them running.

The Diocese of Worcester challenged communities to step up to the plate if they want to keep the buildings - including the landmark Top Church - open in the face of shrinking congregations and £1.12 million of urgent repair work.

Andrew Mottram, the diocese's heritage buildings officer, helped organise a public consultation which ended last week.

"All seven church communities in the Dudley Group are already committed to increasing use of the buildings and are doing significant fundraising themselves," he said.

"However, all these efforts are not enough to meet the financial cost of keeping the church buildings open and their ministry running."

The churches are: St Thomas & St Luke (Top Church) and nearby St Edmunds Church, St Francis Church in Poplar Crescent, St Barnabas in Middlepark Road, St James the Great in Eve Hill, St Augustine of Hippo in Stourbridge Road, and St John's in Kates Hill.

Driver, 19, took mother's car

A man has been banned from driving after he took his mother's car without her consent, a court heard.

Hassan Ali only had a provisional licence and was not insured to drive her Honda Jazz when he was seen by police.

The 19-year-old computer software engineer was also found with cannabis in the car when officers caught him in Long Lane, Halesowen, on November 8.

Ali, of Springfield Road, Halesowen, pleaded guilty to the driving charges and to possession of a class B drug at Dudley Magistrates Court last week.

He was banned from driving for 18 months and fined £200.

Ali was also fined £400 for having no insurance, £100 for no licence and £100 for possessing cannabis with £85 court costs.

Safety help on offer to elderly

A safety scheme has been launched in Halesowen this week to help older people feel safe and secure in the community.

The living well, feeling safe scheme provides practical safety, security and wellbeing advice for older people.

Staff will be visiting homes in the Short Cross area of Halesowen until Friday. Free assessments will be offered where advice is provided on home safety and security.

A drop-in service will also be available at Short Cross Methodist Church, Attwood Street, until Friday, starting at 9.30am until 3pm. Home safety and security equipment can be fitted and home and personal alarms will be offered. The service can be contacted on 01384 817743.

Doctorate honour for nurse

A consultant nurse in Dudley has been awarded her doctorate from the University of the West of England.

Dr Gail Parsons received her doctorate for her studies into how patients manage their pain while preparing for hip and knee replacement surgery.

Gail, who joined the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust in 1979 as an orthopaedic nurse, was formerly awarded her doctorate at a graduation ceremony at Bristol Cathedral.

"I feel elated and really proud that I've been able to make a real difference to our T&O patients," said Dr Parsons, who in the trauma and orthopaedics department.

"There's a huge sense of personal satisfaction in completing a large piece of work," she added.

"It makes me especially happy to know the team who took part in the study can share the achievement with me."

Cracker of fair planned

A Christmas fair is being held at St Peter's Church, Upper Gornal on Saturday. It has a Christmas cracker theme and will include stalls, tombola and a grand draw.

Santa will be in his grotto at 11.30am and 1.30pm, with the whole event running from 10.30am-2.30pm. Entry is 25p and the church is based on Kent Street.

TOUGH ACTION OVER PARKING

Musicians get into the festive swing

A music group from Brierley Hill is gearing up for its first big Christmas concert at a Stourbridge church next month.

Musicians from Thorns Community Music Group have been busy rehearsing songs that they hope will provide an extra special start to the festive season.

Christmas carols, seasonal favourites and songs from the shows will all be performed at Chawn Hill Church on Wednesday December 7.

Tickets, which need to be booked in advance, cost £2.50 and will include a glass of wine and a mince pie.

Pride

Bobby Johnson is the group's band leader who has been a professional musician for more than 60 years.

He said: "We are all bursting with pride with what we have achieved over the last year and are looking forward to performing everything from show songs to Christmas sing-along favourites. This will be our first big Christmas concert as a performing band and are all really excited about sharing our music, we might even inspire a few new members to come and join us."

The band rehearses on Wednesday evenings at



Making merry music, from left: Michaela Vallance, from Hagley, Bobby Johnson and Roger Mantle, from Stourbridge, and Adrian Barrett, from Kingswinford

Thorns Community College, Stockwell Road, Brierley Hill from 7-9pm. The group is already 30 strong but is still welcoming new members who own and play a wind instrument and can read music.

To book tickets for the concert email bobbyjohnson@talktalk.net or call 01384 394501.

Nuisance parkers clogging up residential streets across Dudley borough will face heavy enforcement fines under new plans to introduce parking permits.

Residents say they are "fed up" of struggling to find a space outside their own home and have started a petition calling on Dudley Council to take action.

Borough transport chiefs have revealed they are looking into introducing permits in town centres and around busy spots such as hospitals and schools to help stop workers and shoppers exploiting free parking areas.

Ward councillor for Kingswinford, Denise Harley, said the majority of calls she received were from angry residents complaining about parking.

"People that work in the High Street park along the side streets all day, as well as shoppers who don't want to pay 40p to park in a car park," she said.

"There's nowhere for residents to park."

They are now getting together a petition as they are fed up of this going on. It's a real problem.

Council cabinet member for transport Councillor Patrick Harley said previous forces would have seen residents forced to pay hundreds of pounds to park outside their own home, but said he was now hoping to copy the system used by

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Birmingham City Council, where each house can buy a £15 permit plus a £30 permit for each additional car.

"We need to work out how they do it so cheaply. It may be that enforcement fines for motorists parking without a permit helps to subsidise it," he said.

"If we have to subsidise it ourselves it just won't be possible, but if it is feasible then we should certainly look at trialling it."

He said the trial would most likely be in Kingswinford, in roads including Broad Street, Park Street and Summer Street which lead off from the High Street and often become blocked with parked cars.

If successful, it would be rolled out to other areas such as Russells Hall, where residents are in the midst of a long-running battle to rid the side streets around the hospital of staff and patients who can't find a space in the car park.

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Online service for business welcomed

A Dudley MP has welcomed the start of a new online scheme to help businesses seek information and support. The launch of the new businesslink.gov.uk online services at the start of Global Entrepreneurship Week has been welcomed by Chris Kelly, MP for Dudley South. He says it provides a single point of contact for businesses and start-ups seeking high-quality information and support on issues such as how best to set up a new business.

Mr Kelly said: "We need to do everything that we can to help entrepreneurs start and grow their businesses – and create jobs for local people here in Dudley South and the Black Country. That is why this new business support package is so important. "Information is available online and over the telephone, complimented by practical help from thousands of volunteer business mentors."

Replacements on way to children's play area

New swings, slides and a climbing wall have been ordered to replace equipment stolen by metal thieves from a children's play area in Halesowen.

The play equipment was cut down by thieves on August 30 at the play area at The Leasowes.

Two swings, two slides, a climbing wall and a chain bridge were taken during the raid at the site just off Mucklow Hill. Borough bosses believe the equipment may have been taken to be sold on for scrap. Councillor David Stanley of Dudley Council said: "Replacement equipment has now been ordered, but we don't yet have a date for installation."

In September gangs of youths were banned from gathering at The Leasowes.

Graffiti vandal given street spray can ban

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A graffiti vandal has been banned from carrying spray cans and marker pens around the streets of Halesowen and faces detention if he does not comply.

Creagan Piesley, aged 18, carried out a "spree of criminal damage", Dudley Magistrates Court heard.

He was handed a two-year criminal anti-social behaviour order, known as a crasbo, by District Judge Graham Wilkinson.

"You have reached a decisive point in your life where you can either grow up and respect people's property or go to prison," the judge said.

The court heard last week how Piesley, of King Street, Halesowen, stole spray paint cans from Wilkins in the town centre before targeting the wall of a Dudley Council-owned property.

District Judge Wilkinson said: "This Crasbo is necessary to protect the public from further harm from you. It does harm to private property and

it can be an upsetting situation to find graffiti on your property and to have to pay for it to be cleaned.

"If it is on public property it is the local taxpayer footing the bill.

"I know you think of yourself as some sort of urban artist but it's time you started respecting people's property which you have no right to touch."

He added that if police caught Piesley with any spray cans or marker pens around the town in the next two years, he will be brought back before the courts for a greater punishment.

Caught

Piesley pleaded guilty to shoplifting and criminal damage.

He will also serve a 12-month community order concurrently for the two offences and a three-month curfew between 7pm and 5am. He will also pay £100 costs.

Mr Barry Sealeaf, prosecuting, said Piesley had been caught on CCTV in the Wilkins store stealing six aerosol spray cans worth £30.10 with another male on July 13.

Mr Stephen Hamblett, defending, said his client was prepared to cooperate with his punishment.



Alexandra Westwood is walked to school by a Cyberman from Doctor Who

Doctor Who treat for fan Alex

It was a dream come true for avid Doctor Who fan Alexandra Westwood when she was walked to school by a Cyberman. The 10-year-old from Halesowen was taken to her lessons at Huntingtree Primary School by one of the Doctor's biggest enemies from the cult television show.

Alexandra had her wish granted by the Wishing Well charity, based at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital. She had spent time on the children's ward

after an ear operation in September.

Steve Ford, of Wishing Well, said: "Alexandra has to be the world's biggest Doctor Who fan. She even wore Doctor Who socks for the occasion. Alexandra had a lovely time and was really sad when the Cyberman had to leave."

The Cyberman was film and TV prop builder Nigel Parkes of Kidderminster who has a collection of Doctor Who memorabilia.

More time to have say over cuts

People in Dudley are being given more time to have their say on council plans to slash £12 million from its budget in the years running through to 2014.

Council chiefs have begun drawing up plans to save £8m in 2012/2013 and £4m in 2013/2014 and want to hear views from locals in an online consultation via the authority's website. The consultation had been due to come to an end earlier this month but bosses say they have given people more time to put forward their thoughts.

So far around 60 comments have been made on the plans.

Council leader, Councillor Les Jones, said: "Although we had initially put a finish date on the consultation, on consideration a few days after we launched it, we removed that date as we want to give people as long as possible to have their say on the budget proposals."

"Over the last month we have had around 60 comments made online and I hope more people will take the opportunity to get involved and have their say in the budget making process before final decisions are taken next March."

Priorities

Councillor Jones added: "It is very important to us that we understand what peoples' priorities are and we want to hear residents' views. Setting these budget proposals has been extremely difficult but we are confident that we have identified savings which will maintain a high quality of service to borough residents."

This year, Dudley Council made £22 million of cuts, axing more than 400 staff posts.

Proposals for next year so far include the introduction of new roadside parking charges in Dudley and Stourbridge, where shoppers can currently park for free for up to two hours.

The council also plans to increase bereavement service costs. Other cuts include axing the three town centre manager roles, saving £141,000, and cutting the grant to the Black Country Living Museum.

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Top medal for scout with the cheeky grin

Zumba steps up for charity



Class leader Alison Pickering with Adele Millard and other group members

Fitness fanatics raised more than £1,600 for Breast Cancer Care by showing off their stamina during a three-hour Zumbathon.

Some 37 members of a regular class at Olive Hill Primary, Halesowen, kept going to 50 music tracks guided by group leader Alison Pickering.

Mrs Pickering, aged 45, of Cradley Heath, has run the twice-weekly session for a year and says she was "gobsmacked" by their performance. She said: "We've got people of all

shapes, sizes and ages here and they all did so well. Everyone managed to complete it. I was really proud of everyone for their efforts. I think Zumba is a great way to keep fit. "It doesn't get you too out of breath as there is very little jumping around. Anyone can pick it up."

Mrs Pickering, a health adviser for heart conditions in Sandwell, also runs a pilates group. She said sponsorship was still being collected and they had already raised more than £1,600.

A brave teenager whose "cheeky smile" hides the pain of a crippling illness has been awarded a top scouting medal for his courage.

Explorer scout Ben Hart, aged 16, of Pedmore, Stourbridge, has earned the Medal for Meritorious Conduct.

The award, which is the second highest in scouting, is in recognition of his "strength and determination" despite him suffering from a debilitating health condition.

West Mercia county scout commissioner Paul Wong presented to him.

Ben was diagnosed with the bone condition Perthes' Disease at the age of five and began his scouting life as a beaver scout a year later.

He moved up through the ranks, even though his mobility was at times heavily restricted, having to use crutches or a wheelchair, and he has undergone operations over the years.

Expedition

Ben said: "It is a true honour to receive this award. Without my friends in scouting supporting me, I would not have been able to keep going and achieve what I have."

After moving from his former home in Oxfordshire, Ben joined the 17th Stourbridge Pedmore St Peter's troop in September 2009. When he moved to the Explorer Scout Unit, he volunteered to stay on with Pedmore Scout Group as a young leader.

He gained his bronze Duke of Edinburgh award last year and started on his silver award in January, completing practice walks and a pre-expedition hike. He was planning his expedition for September.

After his condition worsened in June and he was diagnosed with osteochondritis, he thought he would be unable to complete the expeditions. But it has now been organised for him at a centre in the Forest of Dean.

Explorer scout leader Mike Randle said: "Ben takes on challenges like he does everything else - with grit, determination and a cheeky smile that hides any pain he is suffering."

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thechronicle

**D-Day veteran died
wearing his poppy**

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

AD-Day hero known to thousands of Black Country scouts who attended the camp he used to run died on Remembrance Day - wearing a poppy nurses pinned to his hospital gown.

The 90-year-old was suffering from a chest infection.

Claude Jukes - better known as Jim - who ran Kinver Scout Camp, near Stourbridge for several decades, was taken prisoner of war after helping to defend the Pegasus bridge, which had been retaken from the Germans in the early hours of D-Day.

He died at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

His family said that after he was taken into hospital he was determined to hold on to life long enough to see Remembrance Day.

"One of our sons commented - he's waiting for the right day to die," said Mr Jukes's widow, Sheila, aged 80, at their home in Foley Grove, Wombourne.

Television

"I stood in front of the television wearing the poppy on his cap, as he always did, during the two-minute silence on the 11th of the 11th - and the nurses made sure he had a poppy pinned to his gown for Armistice Sunday, when he died at about 7am."

Mr Jukes, a retired printer, who worked at companies in West Bromwich and Dudley, was warden at Kinver Scout Camp - a voluntary job - for more than 30 years and he also used to run a scout group in Dudley.

He and Sheila met at a dance at Kinver British Legion and this year they celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary.

"He didn't really talk about his time in the D-Day landings, saying it was gone and we had to look to the future,

**Jim Jukes, his wife Sheila and grandson Sam at Royal garden party in 2007**

which for him was scouting," said Mrs Jukes.

"Since he died, I have had phone calls from people who attended his camps from as far away as Cornwall."

Mr Jukes's two sons, Andrew and Tim, accompanied him several years ago to revisit Pegasus bridge which crossed the Caen Canal and was taken from the Germans soon after the landings in 1944.

"My father was a marine commando and was among the first to land on Sword beach," said Andrew.

"His landing craft was hit by rocket fire and he had to jump off and swim to the beach."

"The mission was to relieve the paratroop men at Pegasus bridge and he showed us the bullet holes he had dodged."

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Council job losses will cost £3m

Around £3 million will be spent by Dudley Council next year to cover the cost of workers leaving through redundancy.

The local authority has launched the second year of a redundancy programme which will see around 200 positions go by April 2013.

Following an announcement in January, bosses have already shed

more than 400 jobs this year as part of a bid to save £22 million.

The move is part of wider plans to axe 800 jobs over the next three years.

Councillor David Blood, cabinet member for finance, confirmed the cost. He said: "The existing three-year budget strategy allows for £3m of redundancy costs for 2012/13."

School celebrates as measures lifted

An incredible turnaround was being celebrated at a Cradley Heath nursery and primary school after it went from special measures to being rated 'good'.

Timbertree Nursery and Primary School was put into special measures by Ofsted in March last year, mainly due to falling results.

But following a further inspection last Tuesday, the measures have now been lifted.

And inspectors have now given the school an overall good rating, the second highest classification on the four-point scale.

Executive headteacher Tracy Ruddle said: "I'm so pleased with the results."

"Very few schools that come out of special measures manage to be graded as 'Good'."

"I feel this reflects the hard work put in by all of the staff, pupils and parents."

Managed

Following the original Ofsted in March, Sandwell Council suggested Timbertree federated with nearby Congreaves Primary to improve results.

This was because this school had already managed to turn itself around after going into special measures and has since become a national teaching school – providing special training for teachers.

And staff at Timbertree say it was this support that has enabled them to turn around their own fortunes.

Timbertree's head of school Hayley

Looking forward to festive fair



Pupil Zoe Willetts in Santa's grotto

The school will be holding its Christmas Fair on Saturday. It will be opened by Councillor Ann Shackleton, deputy mayor of Sandwell, along with deputy consort Michael Shackleton.

There will be tombolas, guess the weight of the Christmas cake and gift stalls, including handmade jewellery and greetings cards.

There will also be face painting, refreshments and Santa's grotto – with snow.

Executive headteacher Tracy Ruddle said: "Each class has been donating items for the tombolas and making hampers which will be raffled off on the day – we're all starting to feel really festive and are looking forward to welcoming lots of visitors."

It runs from 2pm to 4pm.

Walker, the former assistant headteacher at Congreaves, said: "Our teachers have been able to benefit from the special training provided at Congreaves Primary. Due to the training, the quality of teaching has shot up and so have our results."

Mrs Walker said 61 per cent of pupils were now achieving a level five in numeracy compared with just 30 per cent when they were put into

special measures. She added: "Our next push is to be rated outstanding."

"We are looking to involve the community and parents into developing our curriculum. We also want to improve our ICT facilities and develop of how we use them."

Miss Ruddle was praised in the latest inspection report for her outstanding and inspirational leadership.

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thechronicle

Attacks on hospital staff are on the rise

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The number of staff attacked while on duty at hospitals has increased by up to a third in some parts of the Midlands, new figures claim.

There were 129 workers assaulted last year in Worcestershire compared with 90 in 2009/10 while in Dudley there were 63 cases reported in 2010/11, up from 53.

Meanwhile the number of assaults at hospitals in Sandwell has dropped from 157 to 137. In Worcestershire, there were two incidents of intentional violence to staff resulting in police action.

Verbal warnings, formal letters and even banning culprits from the site except for emergency treatment are among the other steps taken by the hospitals.

Safety training is available for staff at Kidderminster, Redditch and Worcester.

Associate medical director and accident and emergency consultant, Rose Johnson, said: "A&E staff in particular have to face many challenging situations during the course of their duties.

Serious

"Fortunately we see small numbers of serious physical assaults on staff, but those assaults have long-term consequences for the members of staff involved and staff often feel that they can no longer carry on working in this environment after the event.

"The larger numbers of incidents of verbal abuse can feel very threatening to staff and make their difficult jobs even more challenging."

While in Dudley, CCTV is being used to try to catch culprits and a 24-hour manned security service is available to support staff.

Paula Clark, chief executive of The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said: "The Dudley Group takes a zero tolerance approach to violence and aggression and we support staff to report any incidents that occur."

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust spokeswoman Helen Eden said out of the 137 assaults on staff, 61 involved medical factors while 76 were deliberate.

Operation Santa's appeal



Volunteer Elaine Nicholson surrounded by gifts

An appeal for toys and gifts to give to disadvantaged youngsters in Dudley has got off to a flying start.

Organisers have recruited additional volunteers to start wrapping up the Christmas presents but say they still need more donations.

They are appealing for toys, games, books, selection boxes and all sorts of gifts to be handed into the Operation Santa collection centres throughout the borough.

It is hoped that more than 1,400 children across Dudley will benefit. Eileen Fielding who is co-ordinat-

ing the appeal, said: "We have received hundreds of items so far. Fortunately we have had the services of two extra helpers at the Dudley Council for Voluntary Service gift collection centre in Brierley Hill."

Elaine Nicholson from Halesowen and Emma Grindley from Bilston both work for Mid-Counties Co-op Travel Services which encourages staff to help out with a voluntary organisation or charity of their own choosing.

Both chose Operation Santa as the most worthwhile cause.

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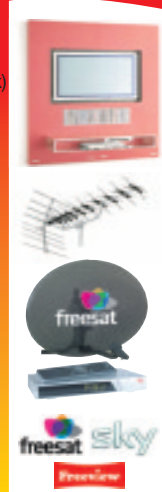
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Protesters to speak at council debate

Protesters have won the right for a special debate over controversial plans to shut a Kingswinford care home after collecting thousands of signatures in opposition to the proposals.

Leading campaigner Mac Scott MBE will address Dudley Council's full council meeting on November 28 to kick-start the 30-minute debate.

"It is a great chance for us to finally have the issue on the agenda of a meeting and to be able to hear a full

debate," he said. Residents will be able to see the debate live on the Internet as the council plans to broadcast it through its website for the first time.

They triggered a debate after collecting more than 5,000 signatures against council plans to shut New Bradley Hall which cares for the elderly.

Anyone handing in a petition of more than 3,000 signatures can force councillors to debate an issue within

the council chamber. Council chiefs say the plans form part of a strategy to encourage older people to live more independently and in some cases be cared for at private homes.

But Mr Scott together with residents and their relatives from the Compton Drive home want to overturn the decision.

"We will be looking to make a number of points to get our message across," he said.

Grandson joins in fight on care home

A devoted grandson has stepped in to help the plight of his grandfather and other residents at a closure-threatened Kingswinford care home by backing fundraising efforts.

Summerhill School pupil Thomas Attwood makes several visits a week to see his grandfather Fred, aged 77, who lives at New Bradley Hall.

But he was shocked to learn that his grandfather could be forced to leave as Dudley Council plans to shut the home under a shake-up of adult social care services in the borough.

The 15-year-old, from Wordsley, will be leading a sponsored awareness walk from the care home to the Dudley Council House steps on December 17.

Helping

"It is going to be a nightmare if he has to move," he said. "I just want to raise awareness and keep the issue in the public eye so everybody knows what's happening."

His parents Nigel and Margaret Attwood, who also have a 20-year-old son Scott, have been helping Thomas raise money through their work colleagues.

Mrs Attwood, who works at Asda at the Merry Hill shopping centre, said the whole family had been taken aback by the closure plans.

"It was a real shock, especially as he has already moved from Ambicote House when it closed a few months



Fred Attwood with his grandson Thomas who is planning a sponsored walk to raise money to fund a legal costs aimed at saving the home

ago," she said. "We wanted him to be close to where we live and he is only two minutes down the road so it was ideal."

Thomas said 'let's do something about it' and came up with this idea to hold a sponsored walk.

He wants to start off at around midday from the Compton Drive care home near Broadfield House Glass Museum.

Walkers will then take the near five mile stroll to the council house, Priory Road, Dudley, with people

sponsoring them. Cash raised will be put towards the £3,000 needed by the New Bradley Hall action group to pay their initial legal fees.

New Bradley Hall's oldest resident Hilda Turner turned 104 last week and her daughter Jane Fasey said the family would be looking forward to celebrating.

Thomas is looking for other grandchildren of residents to take part by contacting him at nigelone@blueyonder.co.uk

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Sue Jakeman of Loaves 'n' Fishes, Wayne Barker of Tesco, and back, Gordon Roberts. They are hoping to make Christmas special for needy children

Charity appeals for new Christmas gifts

An appeal has been launched to fill shopping trolleys with presents for a Cradley Heath charity supporting children over Christmas.

Volunteers from Cradley Heath Baptist Church are hoping to collect a sackful of gifts for children in the town.

They have teamed up with Cradley Heath-based charity Loaves 'n' Fishes for the effort, aiming to help needy families.

Organisers are asking if generous shoppers could leave any presents in a specially decorated trolley at the Tesco superstore in

Cradley Heath. People can donate any new gifts, from cuddly toys to board games, after the supermarket giant agreed to help out.

Project manager Gordon Roberts, aged 67, said the move proved successful last year and the volunteers are hoping for more of the same.

"It is just about putting a smile on children's faces and helping their parents at what can be a hard time of year," he said.

He added second-hand toys or pre-wrapped presents could not be accepted in the scheme which runs until Christmas Eve.

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Lurcher pups and mother are taken

Nine newborn lurcher puppies and their mother have been stolen from their home in Upper Gornal – just one week after police foiled thieves who took two of the litter.

Devastated owner and mother-of-two Jeanette Manley, aged 46, said the puppies were only five weeks old and she was terrified about what might happen to the dogs and their mother, 18-month-old Tia.

Police confirmed they had launched an investigation into the thefts of the pets.

"We came home and found that one of the posts on the dog pen had been jemmied out of the ground, and all the puppies had gone," said Mrs Manley, of Vale Street, Upper Gornal.

"I really want to get them back."

"We've had Tia since she was eight weeks old and I'm really worried they will just dump her and sell off the puppies."

Surprise

"You don't know what kind of home they are going into – it's very distressing, she added.

Earlier this month, the family had a nasty shock when two of the puppies went missing following a visit from a man claiming to be a prospective buyer – but within two days police had tracked them down.

The dogs belong to Mrs Manley's son Elliott, 20, and she said the pregnancy had

dudleychrons@expres sandstar.co.uk

been a surprise. The breed can be used as working dogs, which made them popular and puppies could sell for up to £200 each, she added.

It is thought the theft occurred between 11am and 1pm on November 13.

The thieves left behind the family's other pet, a four-year-old collie-greyhound cross called Zip.

West Midlands Police spokesman Lee Page said: "We are looking into the theft of nine lurcher puppies and one adult dog."

"We are also aware there was a similar incident reported on November 6 of two puppies being stolen," he added.

"We managed to find and return them, however there were no arrests made."

Anyone with information is urged to contact police on 101 or K9 Search UK on 07988 433187.

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thechronicle

£1,144 care fraud by highly-paid chief

A care boss stole more than £1,000 from her employer while taking home a salary of £53,000.

Paula Goodyear defrauded Wolverhampton-based CM Community Care Services of £1,144 while the company, which employed her since 1999, was experiencing financial difficulties.

The 42-year-old from Dudley banked the money while employed as a senior care co-ordinator for the firm. CM Community Care helps people live independently in their own homes by offering services including personal care and assistance with cleaning, laundry and shopping.

Wolverhampton Magistrates Court was told she asked the family of an elderly woman to write a cheque, which should have been payable to the firm, in her name during 2007.

The cash was paid for 10 sessions of care and supervision. Goodyear, of Old Park Road, also falsified paperwork to imply she had worked all 10 shifts herself when she had actually only done four, the court was told.

She pleaded guilty last week to one count of fraud by abuse of position and the case was adjourned until Thursday for a pre-sentence report.

Chairman of the bench Ray Page told Goodyear she may face jail.

Mr Roger Blezard, prosecuting, said Goodyear had worked her way up in the company over eight years and had been in a position of trust at the time of the offence. "This is a fraud by a very senior person," he said.

Mrs Hahmita Patel, defending, said Goodyear, who has since resigned, had acted on "impulse" and was remorseful. She had suffered from ill health in the past and was anxious over the outcome of the court case.



Paula Goodyear

Dancers dazzle for examiners



Youngsters at VJ's Dance Centre celebrates their success

Talented youngsters at a Brierley Hill dance centre are celebrating record results in their latest ballet and tap exams.

The 24 seven to 12-year-olds from VJ's Dance Centre dazzled examiners when they were put through their paces in the Central Dancing Association tests with more than 50 per cent gaining top-mark honours.

The rest all secured highly commended results.

Examiner Lizzie Greenaway said: "It was an absolute delight to be entertained by such an able bunch of beautiful ballerinas and talented tappers."

The centre meets every Saturday at Withmore Primary School, Gayfield

Avenue, and the children are now busily preparing for their Let's Dance show at Brierley Hill Civic next March. Principal Vicky Williams, said: "I could not have wished for better results."

"The dance school is primarily about having fun and enjoying learning new skills, but the dedication of the students has been so disciplined and is reflected in these stunning results."

"I believe we have achieved a remarkably good balance between the demands of exam work and just having a good time expressing ourselves."

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thechronicle

Burglar makes apology to victim

A burglar who disturbed an elderly Black Country resident during a night-time raid on her home apologised before fleeing.

The 80-year-old woman was left "shaken" after the intruder entered her bedroom.

Police said £20 was found to have been taken during the break-in in the Quarry Bank area of Dudley.

Officers said the elderly woman had gone to bed when the man walked into the bedroom and noticed her.

Police said he apologised before making his escape.

Detective Louise Davies said: "We know the offender managed to get into the house through an insecure downstairs window."

Alone

"The terrible thing about this offence is that the victim was home alone at the time, which has understandably left her shaken."

The incident happened at around 8.45pm on November 9.

The burglar is described as a white man, around 6ft 2in with a slim build.

He is around 25 to 30 years old with a Birmingham accent.

He was wearing a black hooded top, black trousers and was carrying a red torch.

Police are appealing for anyone with information to call Dudley CID by dialling 101 or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

MP in rallying call over police station closures

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

A Dudley MP is calling for a parliamentary debate as campaigns to save five Black Country police stations threatened by overnight closure have been launched. Critics claim the controversial move would leave communities unprotected.

Shock proposals to close bases in Dudley, Stourbridge, Halesowen, Bloxwich and Wednesfield for up to 14 hours a day, starting at 6pm, have sparked campaigns across the region. The stations are among 12 in the West Midlands which would be affected by the plans.

Musician is badly injured in stab attack

A 25-year-old man seriously injured after being stabbed in Dudley is a musician who has toured the world with his band.

Jack Turley, drummer in pop punk group, The Fight, was stabbed on Sunday night of last week in Cromwell Street, Kates Hill, along with Faid Saleh, aged 21.

Both were taken to Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital. Jack's sister and bandmate Kate Turley said: "The whole of the local community have been extremely supportive and have sent a lot of messages and kind words to pass on to my brother."

Scores of messages of support have been put on Facebook. His mother Maria wrote: "We would like to thank everyone for all the fantastic support and wishes."

Former Castle High School pupil Mr Turley, of Kates Hill, has been in the four-piece group since 2000. They recorded an album in 2004 with the producer of American Band Fall Out Boy.

Sean Davies, 19, of Cromwell Street, Dudley, was charged with two counts of attempted murder, possession with intent to supply cannabis and possession of an offensive weapon. He appeared at Dudley magistrates last week and was remanded in custody. A second man, also 19, has been released on police bail.

Ian Austin MP for Dudley North, wants the plans to be debated in Parliament.

He has applied for a debate so MPs from across the region can challenge the Government about the proposals.

Mr Austin has been gathering signatures against the petition since he found out about the plans on last Wednesday.

On Saturday he and his team spent more than two hours in Dudley town centre collecting signatures. More than seven hundred people have now signed.

"We'll be taking it door-to-door this week and we've dropped off copies at shops in the town centre," he said. "On Friday we sent out an email to over 3,000 constituents asking them to fill in the petition and pass it on to their friends and family."

Worried

Last week he said: "People are understandably furious about these proposals. If the plans go ahead the nearest police station will be at Brierley Hill - over five miles away for most residents."

"Lots of the crimes that people are most worried about - burglaries, violent crime and anti-social behaviour, tend to happen in the evening."

"So it's all the more important that we have a police station that's open round the clock and local officers that are available all day, every day. What we don't want is people being deterred from reporting crime because the nearest police station is too far away."

He said the region's MPs needed to let the Government know how dangerous and unpopular these plans were. "It's just unbelievable," he said.

Top-mark playgroup

A playgroup near Stourbridge is celebrating after receiving its best Ofsted inspection results to date.

The Hagley playgroup, which is based in Hagley Community Centre, received outstanding accreditation in all categories.

These included the quality of the provision in the early years foundation stage, outcomes for children and the effectiveness of leadership and management. The playgroup, which has been running for 50 years, now takes children between the age of two and four and opens four mornings per week.

Playgroup manager, Sharon Gould, said: "We are absolutely thrilled with this result. Due to our playgroup being based within a community centre, we never expected that we would achieve outstanding grades across the board."

Firm donates TV to school

Pupils at a Brierley Hill school are having their academic achievements displayed in style on a plasma television donated by bosses from a firm.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School has installed the screen which is used to inform youngsters of upcoming activities and congratulate them for good work.

The TV was donated by bosses from the Business Moves Group after parent Michael Downs, who works for the firm, asked if they could make a donation to buying it.

But chairman Simon Darvall offered to pay for the TV outright.

He and Mr Downs visited the school to see the TV and chat with youngsters.

Friends of St Mary's spokesman Natalie Field said the firm had been very generous and the TV had been a boost to the school.

She said: "We use the screen to highlight the achievements of pupils."

"It lets the children know that their work is important."



St Mary's Catholic Primary School pupils celebrate the installation of their new plasma screen television with Simon Darvall and Michael Downs of BMG

Rubbish bags to be delivered

A new delivery of bin bags for residents in Dudley to use when they are putting out their rubbish will begin being sent out next month.

A controversial three-bag limit on collections from each household in Dudley was imposed alongside the issuing of bin bags in bulk in September last year.

Bosses have now said the next roll of bags will be delivered along with next year's garden waste recycling calendar between December and March 2012.

However that will be dependent on the weather. Residents will not receive a recycling calendar this year, as collection days are unaltered, but they can download them from the website at www.dudley.gov.uk

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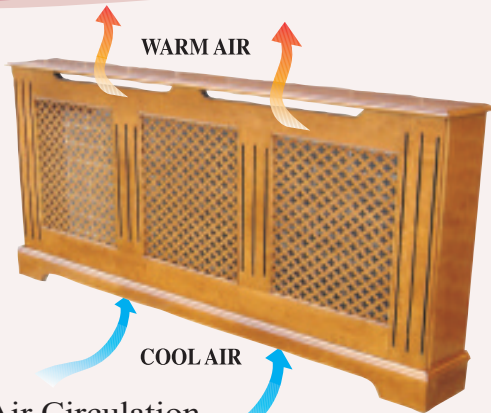
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thechronicle

Fears raised on sale of council building

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

The sell-off of a landmark Black Country building has been criticised and fears raised about its future. Sandwell Council is selling off the Municipal Building in Cradley Heath.

Located on the corner of Barrs Road and Halesowen Road, it was built in 1938 and has been used as offices for council staff since 1974.

It is being sold as part of a drive to sell former council buildings to raise money. Residents now fear for the future of the site but the council has defended the sell-off, blaming the move on budget cuts.

It says it needs to save £75 million by 2015. Cradley Heath and Old Hill Councillor Liz Bowler said she has been contacted by a number of residents concerned about the site, which is located on the corner of Barrs Road and Halesowen Road.

She said the building features on the Rowley Regis Heritage Trail, which includes other places of local historical interest such as Haden Hill House and Park, Cradley Heath Library, Corngreaves Hall and St Giles Church in Rowley.

Historical

Councillor Bowler said: "I have had several residents contact me because there are rumours that the building is going to be demolished and the land redeveloped for housing."

"I've contacted the council to ask if it were to be sold have any conditions been attached to any potential redevelopment of the building, which might possibly help to safeguard the structure as it stands, but unfortunately the council's officers don't appear to have considered this as yet."

Councillor Bowler added: "I feel really passionate about this, not only because I have lived opposite the building for so many years, but Sandwell Council seems to have a habit of neglecting our heritage."

However, the borough's economy boss, Councillor Ian Jones said the authority had no choice other than to sell off the building.

He said: "Because of the dramatic austerity cuts that this Government has imposed on the council, we are having to relocate our staff into centralised buildings."

"The issue of retaining the municipal building is something that I have looked at carefully over the last few months."



Councillor Liz Bowler at Cradley Heath's Municipal Building which is has been put on the market



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- Twinings English Breakfast Tea (20s)

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☐ **Canadian Luxury – £53.75**

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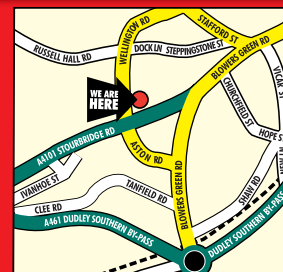
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Workers steal £45k from council coffers

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More than £45,000 of taxpayers' cash has been stolen from council coffers in Dudley by unscrupulous employees pocketing extra money, it has emerged. In the past four years, a total of £45,050 has been lost.

It has gone through fraud, theft or corruption by people working for, or contracted by, the council. A hotline has now been set up for honest employees to shop their corrupt colleagues after the number of cases doubled between 2007 and last year. Finance chief Councillor David Blood said it makes it easier for residents and council staff to report suspicions.

"Unfortunately, we know that fraud is going on, and we take a very dim view of it," said Mr Blood.

"A full investigation will be launched, and if we find that fraud has been carried out we will prosecute where we think it is necessary. Dudley Council has a zero tolerance against fraud."

Corruption

Frauds reported to the council include fraudulent use of money, such as people getting cash they are not entitled to, including payments for contracts, supplies or grants. It can also include the stealing or misusing of council resources, such as stores, equipment, vehicles or buildings belonging to the authority.

Figures obtained by the Chronicle's sister paper, the Express & Star under the Freedom of Information Act reveal that in 2007, 15 cases of fraud, theft or corruption were reported to the council, with £7,850 going missing from council funds in the form of cash or items stolen.

In 2010, this had increased to 30 cases, costing the council a massive £21,000. This was up from £6,950 stolen in 2009 and £5,250 stolen in 2008. And between January and October this year, 15 cases were reported, costing the council a reported £3,500.

Five of those reports were received within the first month of the hotline's launch in September.

Bert signs school football



Bert Williams with pupils, left, Joel Cook and Sam Downing, both eight, signs a leather football for a charity auction at Rowley Hall Primary School

Sporting legend Bert Williams finally got round to signing a football for Sandwell school children last week - 60 years after the school first received it.

The 91-year-old goalkeeping great gave a leather ball to Rowley Hall Primary School in Rowley Regis way back in 1951.

The ball, marked 'Bert Williams, Wolverhampton' on one side, with the word 'Molineux' on the other, has been hidden in a cupboard. Site manager John Green only found it

when he came to clear it out. The ball was due to take pride of place in an auction for school funds. "Having Bert's signature on this ball is going to mean there is a lot of interest in it," said school office manager Sylvia Downing.

Two pupils, Sam Downing, from Cradley Heath, and Joel Cook, from Rowley Regis, both aged eight, went to Bert's house in Shifnal to get Bert's autograph.

Bert said: "I don't remember the ball, but I was delighted to sign it."

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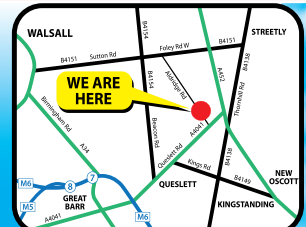
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Council workers set to move

More than 150 workers at Dudley Council are to move to another office as part of a scheme to save cash and make better use of space. Staff in the human resources section of the local authority are to move to Regent House in King Street.

It is part of a project being carried out by Dudley Council which will see more than a third of council buildings which have been deemed unfit for purpose put on the market.

The move is to happen over the next three years under plans unveiled by council bosses earlier this year.

It is due to save an estimated £500,000 a year in running costs.

Regent House was until earlier this year used by the Future Skills Service.

However, the council lost its contract to run the service to provide employment and skills training to the private sector earlier this year.

Councillor Les Jones, leader of the council, said: "The project to move human resources to Regent House is part of a three-year project designed to make better use of the space used by the council in Dudley, and make financial savings at the same time."

"By changing the way we work the 156 staff moving in HR will occupy less space and therefore associated costs will be less."

Councillor Tim Wright, cabinet member for human resources, said: "The aim of the move is to centralise them into one location which will create a more efficient way of working."

In total 24 of the council's offices and 11 customer reception buildings will be earmarked for sale but council chiefs are yet to announce which ones will go. However the Council House in Ednam Road, along with the buildings in St James Road and Parsons Street, will not be among them.

Borough bosses have been working on establishing in-dependent valuations of the sites before carrying out work on their possible future uses.

School's rating is top level

A school near Stourbridge is celebrating after being given the top grading by Ofsted.

Hagley Catholic High, Brake Lane, was rated "outstanding" and praised for having a "culture that nurtures success at every level".

The school was judged to be "good" during the last Ofsted report five years ago and teachers say they are "delighted".

Inspector Kevin Sheldrick said he was impressed by the "excellent behaviour of students" and said they have "a strong sense of duty, and participate in activities that help others and improve the environment in the school and beyond".

He said efforts had been made to teach subjects in greater depth and give pupils a say in lesson organisation.

Headteacher, Ted Hammond said: "I'm delighted that the inspectors have recognised the exceptional efforts made by all of the staff and students."

Sss-oaking snake a hit at zoo

Like most females, Columbia the Brazilian rainbow boa enjoys a long soak in the bath in her vivarium at Dudley Zoo.

The tree snake spends a lot of time in the tub as the water helps to keep her rainbow scales gleaming.

The boa's rainbow colours are caused by the refraction of light as her scales act like mini-prisms, due to microscopic ridges, unseen to the naked eye.

Columbia is very much in demand for the zoo's Creature Features, which are informative educational talks with live animal demonstrations.

Presenter Langan Turner said: "Columbia is a tree snake really, but she adores water and spends a lot of time in the bath, as she loves the humidity and it is good for her skin."


"When we get her out of her vivarium we have to take a towel to dry her before she meets the public, as inevitably she has been having a long soak and is dripping wet."

"Columbia has a nice steady temperament so we use her for educational events, such as school-based talks and Creature Features in the community."



Dudley Zoo presenter Langan Turner with rainbow boa Columbia after a long soak



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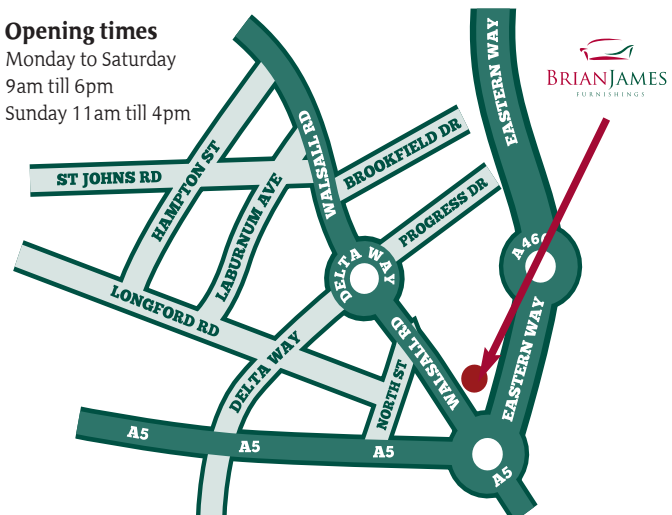
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Opening Times: Monday – Saturday (9:30 am – 5:00pm)

Friday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast 0.15 Rtp Of Britain
 0.00 Lunch 1.00 Afternoon 1.00 Evening 1.00

BBC News/Weather: **11:00** **Notes**
 Squad: **11:15** Catch in the Act/9 BBC News/
 Weather: **11:15** Bargain Hunt/9: **1:00** BBC News/
 Weather: **1:15** Shred/9: **1:30** The Big
 October 2: **1:30** Only Fools and Horses: **3:45** BBC
 15/Pollack/9: **6:00** BBC News/Weather: **6:30**
 Regional News/Weather: **7:00** The
 News: **7:30** Shred/9: **8:00** The
 Evening: **8:30** The Two Pints of
 Stout/9: **9:00** Have I Got News for You: **9:30** Use of
 the Force: **10:00** BBC News: **10:25** Regional News/
 Weather: **10:30** Shred/9: **10:55** The
 National Lottery Rikky Mill Draw: **11:30**
 Hint: The Hand That Rocks the Cradle (1985)
 Thriller, starring Rebecca De Mornay: **11:55**
 The 1990s: **12:00** The Big News: **12:30**
 Fry's Planet/9: **1:30** BBC News/

BEST **DEBUTANT** **11:25 The Pink Panther Show** (R) **12:00 Daily Politics**, **12:30 GMT** with George Alameda; **1:00 Coast 51**; **1:15 Tinch** to Catch 2.1/Westnet Local; (R) **3:00 Escape to the Country**; **3:45 Holly Elkins' Debt of Brilish**; **4:30 Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Our Mountain of Secrets**; **6:00 The City of Angels** - It Takes Two; **7:00 Her Hunters**; **8:00 Undermint**; **9:30 Flint: The Accidentel Husband** (2008) Premieres. Romantic comedy starring Uma Thurman, Colin Firth and Jeffrey Dean Morgan; **10:00 The Best of British**; **10:30 The Perleau Show**; **11:45 Drama**; **11:50 Flint: The Crouching Guard** (1989); **Drama**, starring Jack Nicholson; **12:55BD Mexic**. **3:20 Close.**

[illegible][illegible]

Channel 5 6.00 *Microtel* 6.15 *The Night Shift* 8.15 *Live with Kelly* 12.05 *S-Mew* *Landscape* 12.15 *Law & Order* (R) 1.15 *Home and Away* 1.45 *Neighbours* 2.15 *Home and Away* 2.45 *Neighbours* 3.15 *Doogie* (R) 3.45 *Modern City* 4.00 *Westend* starring Tom Bergeron 5.00 *S-Mew* 5.30 *Neighbours* (R) 6.00 *Home and Away* (R) 6.30 *Home and Away* (R) 7.00 *S-Mew* 7.30 *Home and Away* (R) 8.00 *Home and Away* (R) 8.30 *Deadliest Warrior* 9.00 *S-Mew* at 8.00 *Alien Hawk* *Down* (2001) *Fordhouse* military drama, starring John Harwood. 11.50 *Uncle Hollywood* (R) 12.05 *Superman* 9.05 *Motorport* *Football* 9.30 *Football* 9.55 *Paul O'Grady's* *Guilty* *Critic* (R) 10.00 *Microtel* 10.15 *Channel 5*

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Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

The letter represented by the question mark is 'S'. The words are: 'SOCIETY', 'SCHOOL', 'SUNSHINE'.



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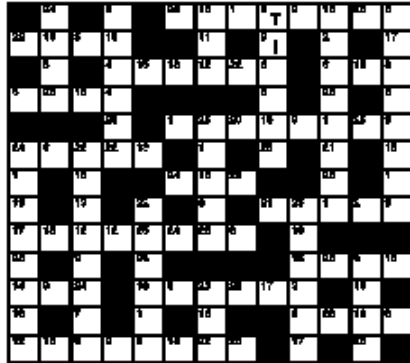
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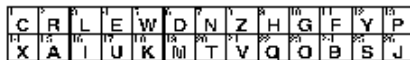
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either the quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Held in common for a lot (10)
7. Superstitious symbol of many for losing a gambling system (5)
8. Courses followed by those who fly high (7)
10. Course a professional in ready (8)
11. He tallies his accounts (4)
13. Used by people of high standing (8)
15. Balance that puts healthy colour into a lot (8)
17. Provides weapons for members (4)
18. Sailor, given the sock, goes on foot (8)
21. A sort of colour relationship (7)
22. Apparent reduction of over time (5)
23. Commanding individual with an important role to play (7,3)

Down

1. Started to smoke, having had a lot to drink (3,2)
2. Useful when the going is sticky (8)
3. Quickly take a few notes, perhaps (6)
4. Side drink? (4)
5. Like an egg, it's blown (7)
6. Appears frightened and begins to go home (5,4)
9. The plight of the portent? (3,5)
12. Saving character in the literary world (8)
14. Big men at heart (7)
16. Excuse to knock up a standard (5)
19. It can smooth a dance to pieces (5)
20. Unproductive sort of raid (4)

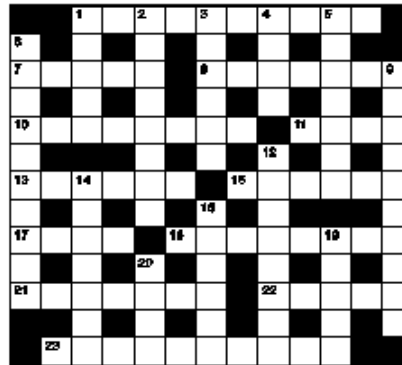
Quick Clues:

Across

1. Prosperous (10)
7. Kingly (5)
8. Ottomans (7)
10. Lost (8)
11. Unknown (4)
13. Substitute (6)
15. Develop (8)
17. Concerning (4)
18. Four kinds of air (8)
21. Rascally (7)
22. Accumulate (5)
23. Sackcloth (10)

Down

1. Vision (5)
2. Ouster (8)
3. Route (5)
4. Identity (4)
5. Ostrich (7)
6. Sock (10)
9. Composition (10)
12. Vanquished (8)
14. Introduction (7)
16. Opulence (6)
19. Scatter (5)
20. Raze (4)



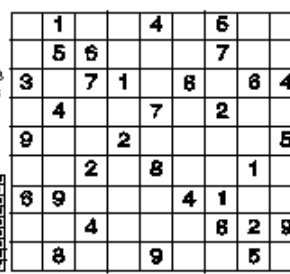
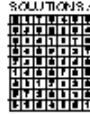
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Prosperous, 7 Kingly, 8 Ottomans, 10 Lost, 11 Unknown, 13 Substitute, 15 Develop, 17 Concerning, 18 Four kinds of air, 21 Rascally, 22 Accumulate, 23 Sackcloth. Down: 1 Vision, 2 Ouster, 3 Route, 4 Identity, 5 Ostrich, 6 Sock, 9 Composition, 12 Vanquished, 14 Introduction, 16 Opulence, 19 Scatter, 20 Raze.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



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BARTLEY GREEN Trimpley Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Mid terraced house * Two bedrooms * Partly completed renovation project (kitchen requires to be fitted) * Bathroom * Through living room Offers in the region of £99,950	HALESOWEN 33 Newbury Close <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Luxury first floor apartment * Three bedrooms all with ensembles * Superb fitted kitchen with appliances * Finished to a superior specification * Air conditioning * Allocated parking & CCTV Monthly rent of £875	ROWLEY REGIS 15 Rough Hill Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Detached family residence * 3 Bedrooms * Quality finish & decoration * Kitchen with appliances * Living & dining room * Garage & gardens * GCH & DG windows Monthly rent of £675	OLDBURY 8 Sunnybank Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Spacious bungalow * 2 Bedrooms (Master with ensuite) * Kitchen * Lounge & conservatory * Bathroom with shower * Garage & workshop style room * Gas central heating Monthly rent of £600	STOURBRIDGE Wollscote Longmoor Springfield Avenue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Modern semi-detached home * 2 bedrooms * double glazed windows * fitted kitchen with oven, hob, hood and fridge * modern white bathroom suite with shower over bath * gas boiler/radiator heating Monthly rent of £545	OLDBURY 73 Swan Crescent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Semi detached house * 3 bedrooms * upvc double glazed windows * gas boiler/radiator heating system * first floor bathroom with wc and sep ground floor wc * gardens Monthly rent of £525	STOURBRIDGE Clent Apartment 9 Clent Cottage Odnull Lane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Furnished apartment * double bedroom * kitchen with appliances * bathroom with shower * gch & dgw * beautiful quite location & grounds * Ideal for access to the motorway! Monthly rent of £495
WEST BROMWICH 44 Margaret Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * End terraced house * 2 double bedrooms * Fitted kitchen * Utility * Gas boiler/radiator heating system * UPVC double glazing * Available from 1/1/12! Monthly rent of £475	HALESOWEN Colley Gate 22 Juniper Rise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Well Presented apartment on small modern estate * Ground Floor * Two Bedrooms * Fitted kitchen with many appliances * Double glazed windows * Gas boiler serving radiators * Allocated parking space Monthly rent of £445	ROWLEY REGIS 40A High Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * First floor flat * two bedrooms * kitchen/dining room with oven and hob * bathroom with shower * gas boiler/radiator heating system * available from 14th november Monthly rent of £415	DUDLEY Sedgley Flat Over 75 Bilston Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Self contained first floor flat * One bedroom * Open plan kitchen/living room * Bathroom with shower over * night storage heating * UPVC double glazing to windows * Available Now! Monthly rent of £345	HALESOWEN 80 Stourbridge Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Self contained bed-sit style flat * Fitted shower room * Small kitchenette * Electric heating * UPVC double glazed windows. * Allocated car space * Available from 9/12/2011 Monthly rent of £225	CRADLEY HEATH Unit 4 Peacocks Industrial Estate Providence Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Workshop/warehouse * Established industrial estate * Well-presented with painted floor * Two toilets and small kitchen * Good natural lighting * GIA: 132.06 sq.m. (1,421 sq.ft.) Annual rent Of £11,175	DUDLEY 13/14 Paganel Industrial Est Turner Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Two linked starter units/warehouses * Small private estate * Two washrooms * Roller shutter door * Secure gated system to site * Gross Int Area 101.87sq m (1096 sq ft) Rent: £6,700 pa plus VAT

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ROWLEY REGIS, SIDAWAY CLOSE

A much improved and extended detached house, set in a cul-de-sac location, comprises of: Three Bedrooms, Refitted Dining Kitchen, Modern Lounge, Separate Dining Area, Master with En-Suite, Refitted Bathroom, Driveway Parking for 3/4 Cars, Rear Garden, Unfurnished

£750 PCM



HALESOWEN, SHENSTONE AVENUE

A 3 bedroom semi detached house in the sought after location of Lugal. Comprises of: Two Reception Rooms, Extended Kitchen, Guest WC, Three Good Sized Bedrooms, Bathroom with Separate Shower Cubicle, Garage, Extensive Gardens with Stunning Views Over Leasowes Park, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Close to Schools.

£695 PCM



HALESOWEN, SANDERSON PLACE

Located in Hayley Green, is this unfurnished first floor apartment, briefly comprising of: Spacious Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Master with En-Suite, Bathroom and Parking Space. Viewing Highly Recommended.

£650 PCM



OLDBURY, WOODFIELD AVENUE

Been tastefully refurbished and beautifully presented is this semi detached house, briefly comprising of: Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Driveway Parking, Rear Garden, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished

£595 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, THRONE ROAD

Located on a commutable road into Birmingham and close to the M5 J2, is this well presented unfurnished semi-detached home, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Large Through Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, House Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front and Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking

£550 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, WYCHERLEY WAY

A modern and spacious well presented unfurnished two bedroom semi detached house, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Living Room, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Garage and Off Road Parking. Viewing Highly Recommended.

£550 PCM



HALESOWEN, BETHESDA GARDENS

Located on this new build estate is this modern ground floor apartment, coming unfurnished, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Modern Bathroom with Shower, Master with En-Suite, Fitted Kitchen with White Goods, Open Plan Spacious Lounge, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking, A Must View Property

£525 PCM



HALESOWEN, STOURDELL ROAD

A beautifully refurbished semi-detached home, in a sought after location and quiet road, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Large Through Lounge, Large Bathroom with Corner Bath and Shower, Small Kitchen, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Large Patio and Small Grazed Garden, Driveway Parking, Unfurnished

£525 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, SIDAWAY STREET

A superb refurbished mid terraced property within walking distance to Old Hill town centre, with an internal inspection recommended, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Walk in Dressing Room, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen with Appliances and Utility Area, Bathroom with Shower Cubicle but NO BATH, Double Glazing, Electric Heating, On Road Parking, Low Maintenance Rear Garden

£525 PCM



HALESOWEN, BEAUMONT ROAD

A part furnished 2 bed mid terraced home briefly comprising of: Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen with Appliances, Downstairs Family Bathroom, Two Double Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing and Rear Garden.

£495 PCM



DUDLEY, SOUTHGATE WAY

A Modern spacious well presented unfurnished semi detached house, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Living Room, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Garage and Off Road Parking. Viewing Highly Recommended.

£485 PCM



TIPTON, FERGUSON DRIVE

A lovely unfurnished modern second floor apartment, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Bathroom with Shower, Two Allocated Parking Spaces, Internal Viewing Recommended

£475 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, GREENFIELD AVENUE

Well presented and close to Cradley Heath Town centre is this unfurnished End Terraced House, comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Spacious Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Three Bedrooms, House Bathroom with Shower, Front & Rear Gardens, On Road Parking

£475 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, KING STREET

Located in the heart of Old Hill, is this unfurnished first floor modern apartment, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Master Bedroom with En-Suite, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Double Glazing, Electric Storage Heating, Bathroom with Shower, Allocated Parking Space

£475 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, HIGHFIELD ROAD

This spacious and unfurnished terraced home has: Two Reception Rooms, Three Double Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, On Road Parking

£450 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, UNITT DRIVE

Come on the market in this popular located apartment, close to Old Hill and local train station, is this unfurnished second floor apartment, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Allocated Parking Space

£450 PCM



HALESOWEN, NETHEREND LANE

On this popular development, is this unfurnished first floor flat, briefly comprising of: Electric Storage Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Garden, Garage

£380 PCM



DUDLEY, BEAN ROAD

A refurbished ground floor flat within easy reach of the town centre, briefly comprising of: Reception Hall with Minton Floor, Lounge, Double Bedroom, Fitted Kitchen, Shower Room, Double Glazing, and Communal Parking. Unfurnished

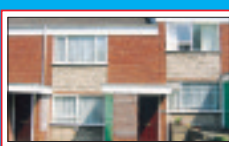
£380 PCM



HALESOWEN, APPERLEY WAY

An Unfurnished ground floor flat on a popular development, briefly comprising of: Double Bedroom, Fitted Kitchen (OWN COOKER TO BE SUPPLIED), Bathroom with Shower, Lounge, Electric Storage Heating, Parking, Communal garden

£375 PCM



HALESOWEN, PIPPIN AVENUE

Located on the popular Homer Hill Estate in Halesowen is this unfurnished first floor flat, briefly comprising of: Living Room/Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Garden

£340 PCM



HALESOWEN, WILTSHIRE DRIVE

A spacious unfurnished ground floor maisonette located within a Sought After Location, and close to Cradley Heath Train Station and local buses, briefly comprising of: Fitted Dining Kitchen, Living Room, Bathroom with Shower, One Double Bedroom, Parking Space,

£340 PCM

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The lounge/diner is a nice feature of this home in Tipton



The property is on the market priced at £165,000

£165,000 for a modern home

THE agent says viewing is essential at this executive detached property in Great Meadow, Tipton, for sale at £165,000.

The house briefly comprises of kitchen, cloakroom, lounge/diner, three good sized bedrooms with en suite to the master, family bathroom, rear garden, driveway and integral garage.

An entrance hall with alarm panel leads to the kitchen, measuring 13ft 9in by 6ft 11in and fitted with a range of wall and base units with complementary rolled edge work surfaces over, inset one and a half bowl stainless steel sink with drainer, integrated electric oven, integrated gas hob with cooker hood over, plumbing for washing machine and dishwasher and space for other appliances.

Feature

The cloakroom is fitted with low-level WC and pedestal wash hand basin, while the lounge/diner – 18ft 11in by 11ft 3in – has feature fireplace with electric fire, marble inset/heart and modern surround and French doors to the rear.

On the first floor the master bedroom is 14ft 3in by 10ft 7in with built in wardrobes and an en suite comprising of separate shower cubicle, pedestal wash hand basin and low-level WC.



Estate agent Worton Kelly is handling the sale of this three-bedroom home

There are two other bedrooms and a family bathroom with panel bath, pedestal wash hand basin and low-level WC. Outside, to the front of the property, is a garden with slate bedded rockery and an asphalt driveway. The rear garden has a paved patio area and is mainly laid to lawn with borders and wooden fence surround.

Call Worton Kelly on 0121 588 5666 for more details or to arrange a viewing.

Large detached from a local firm of builders

A DECEPTIVELY large four bedroom property in Gornal is up for sale with a guide price of £269,950.

Built by local firm Ardal Developments the house – Plot 1, Cinder Road – has larger than average rooms and benefits from low-maintenance uPVC windows, gas fired radiator central heating, house bathroom, two en suites and security alarm.

The entrance hall leads to a cloakroom with WC and wash basin, while the lounge at the rear is 16ft 8in by 15ft 1in with patio doors to the garden and feature fireplace and fire.

Kitchen

The dining room/family room to the front is 12ft 6in by 9ft 11in, while the breakfast kitchen – 19ft 10in by 9ft 11in – incorporates a double oven, hob and over hob extractor, defined utility area and built-in fridge freezer.

On the first floor bedroom one has an en-suite shower room and there are three more bedrooms, another of them en suite, and a bathroom.

The integral garage is 18ft 3in by 8ft 5in, while there are landscaped gardens to the front and rear.

Call Wakeman on 01384 288188 for details.



This large family home in Gornal is on the market for offers based on £269,950

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*VAT Free offer is based on the Swift 524 3 door available at £9,880 including a customer saving of £1,780 which equals the VAT amount of the previous on the road price of £10,880. Offer also available on the Swift 524 3 and 524 5 door and 5 door models. Model shown information relates to the Swift 524 5 door available at £10,820 including a customer saving of £2,165 which equals the VAT amount of the previous on the road price of £12,985. For more information on other VAT free offers across the Swift range please contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. This offer is subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 31st October 2011 and 31st December 2011 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. The Suzuki Swift 1.3 555 model falls into Government Vehicle Excise Band B at £20 per year from year 2 onwards, first year free. **189g/km CO₂ relates to Swift 555 model. †ESP® is a registered trademark of Daimler AG. ††You can win a pair of Clothes Show Live tickets if you spend £50 or more on Suzuki Genuine Accessories, competition ends 25.11.2011. Subject to availability, terms and conditions apply. Ask your Dealer for more information. All prices and specifications are correct at time of going to press.

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56 Reg	FIAT PUNTO 1.2 DYNAMIC Grey, CD, 5-door, Ins Grp 3, 45k	£3495	£23
56 Reg	FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.2 ACTIVE Red, alloys, CD, insurance group 2, 41k	£3695	£24
56 Reg	FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.2 ACTIVE Red, CD, 5-door, Ins Grp 2, FSH, 47k	£3995	£26
56 Reg	FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.4 ACTIVE SPORT Silver, Alloys, CD, 3-door, Ins Grp 3, FSH, 48k	£3995	£26
04 Reg	FORD FIESTA 1.4 FLAME Orange, Alloys, CD	£2695	£17
08 Reg	FORD C-MAX 1.6 ZETEC MPV Silver, AC, Alloys, CD, FSH	£4695	£30
08 Reg	FORD C-MAX 2.0 TDCI ZETEC MPV Silver, Diesel, AC, Alloys, CD	£6995	£41
55 Reg	FORD FOCUS 1.8 TDCI GHIA Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD	£4495	£29
07 Reg	FORD FOCUS 1.8 TDCI LX Red, Diesel, Alloys, CD	£4695	£30
57 Reg	FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCI ZETEC Silver, Diesel, AC, Alloys, CD, FSH	£5195	£33
54 Reg	FORD STREET KA 1.6i LUXURY Grey, Convertible, A/C, Alloys, CD, Leather Seats	£2695	£17
53 Reg	FORD STREET KA 1.6i Silver, Convertible, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH, 37k	£3195	£21
08 Reg	FORD MONDEO 1.8 TDCI EDGE Silver, Diesel, A/C, CD, FSH, 68k	£6995	£41
58 Reg	FORD MONDEO 1.8 TDCI EDGE ESTATE Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH, 68k	£6995	£41
06 Reg	MINI 1.6 ONE Silver, alloys, CD, insuran ce group 5, FSH	£5495	£35
07 Reg	JAGUAR X-TYPE 2.0i Grey, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£5695	£36
Y Reg	MGF 1.8i VVC CONVERTIBLE, Gold, Alloys, CD, 44k, p/x to clear	£2195	na
53 Reg	PEUGEOT 206 1.4 SE Silver, AC, Alloys, CD Multi Changer	£2695	£17
04 Reg	PEUGEOT 206 1.4 S Gold, A/C, Alloys, CD	£3195	£21
56 Reg	PEUGEOT 207 1.4 SE Black A/C, Alloys, CD, 5-door, FSH, 34k	£4995	£32
56 Reg	PEUGEOT 207 1.4 SPORT Blue, A/C, Alloys, CD, 5-door, 40k	£4495	£29
55 Reg	PEUGEOT 207 2.0i XS Orange, A/C, Alloys, CD Multi changer, Half Leather, FSH, 54k	£3695	£24
05 Reg	PEUGEOT 207 1.6 HDI 110 SPORT Silver, Diesel, AC, Alloys, CD	£3995	£26
56 Reg	PEUGEOT 207 1.6 HDI 110S Silver, Diesel, AC, Alloys, CD, FSH	£4495	£29
55 Reg	PEUGEOT 207 1.6 S Black, 2006, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH, 37k	£4495	£29
07 Reg	RENAULT CLIO 1.2 CAMPUS SPORT Blue, AC, Alloys, CD, Low Insurance Grp 3	£3995	£26
56 Reg	RENAULT CLIO 1.6 DYNAMIQUE (New Shape), AC, Alloys, CD, 5-door, Low Ins Grp 3, FSH	£3995	£26
05 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.4 DYNAMIQUE Beige, AC, Alloys, CD, FSH, 41k	£2495	£23

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06 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.9 DCI DYNAMIQUE Silver, Diesel, AC, Alloys, CD, Panoramic Roof	£3195	£21
07 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.4 DYNAMIQUE Silver, AC, Alloys, CD, 3-door, FSH	£3695	£24
56 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 MAXIM Silver, AC, Alloys, CD, FSH, 42k	£3995	£26
56 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI DYNAMIQUE Silver, Diesel, AC, Alloys, CD, £30 Tax, FSH	£4695	£30
05 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE, Red, AC, Alloys, CD, FSH, 49k	£3695	£24
56 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI TECH RUN DYNAMIQUE Diesel, Grey, AC, Alloys, CD, £30 Tax, FSH	£5695	£36
04 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE Cabriolet, Blue, AC, 18in Alloys, CD, Panoramic Roof, 45k	£3995	£29
06 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE Cabriolet, Silver, AC, Alloys, CD, Panoramic Roof, FSH	£5695	£36
07 Reg	RENAULT SCENIC 1.5 DCI DYNAMIQUE MPV Silver, Diesel, AC, Alloys, CD, FSH	£4195	£28
57 Reg	RENAULT SCENIC 1.5 DCI DYNAMIQUE MPV Gold, Diesel, AC, Alloys, CD, FSH, 50i	£4695	£30
07 Reg	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 CDTi LIFE Silver, Diesel, AC, CD, FSH	£4495	£29
06 Reg	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4i SXI COUPE Silver, A/C, CD, 3-door, FSH, 48k	£5195	£33
07 Reg	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4i SXI Turquoise, air con, alloys, CD, FSH, 40k	£5195	£33
07 Reg	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 CDTi DESIGN Grey, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, Half Leather Seats, FSH	£5195	£33
54 Reg	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi, Gold, AC, Alloys, CD, Low Ins Group 3	£3495	£23
54 Reg	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi, Blue, AC, Alloys, CD, Low Ins Grp 3	£3495	£23
55 Reg	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2i SXi, Silver, AC, Alloys, CD, Low Ins Grp 3, FSH	£3695	£24
56 Reg	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2i SXi Silver, AC, Alloys, CD, 5-door, 30k	£4195	£28
55 Reg	VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.6 ENJOY Blue, AC, CD, FSH	£3695	£24
06 Reg	VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8i VVT DESIGN Grey, A/C, Alloys, CD, Half Leather Sport Seats	£3995	£26
57 Reg	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 CLUB 7 seater, Silver, AC, Alloys, CD, FSH, 46k	£5995	£38
56 Reg	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 CLUB MPV Black, AC, CD, 7 seater, FSH, 30k	£5695	£36
55 Reg	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.9 CDTi CLUB MPV Beige, Diesel, AC, Alloys, CD, 7 seater, FSH	£5695	£36
56 Reg	VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.4 S Red, Diesel, AC, CD, FSH, 41k	£5495	£35
06 Reg	VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.2 S 55 Blue, AC, Alloys, CD, FSH	£4495	£29

PART EXCHANGES TO CLEAR

03 Reg FORD MONDEO 1.8 LX Red, P/X to clear, MOT'd Feb 2012 £1695 .. na
Y Reg VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT 1.9 SE TDI Green, Diesel, P/X to clear, MOT'd March 2012 £1695 .. na
53 Reg FORD FOCUS 1.8 TDI LD White, Diesel, P/X to clear, MOT'd April 2012 £1995 .. na
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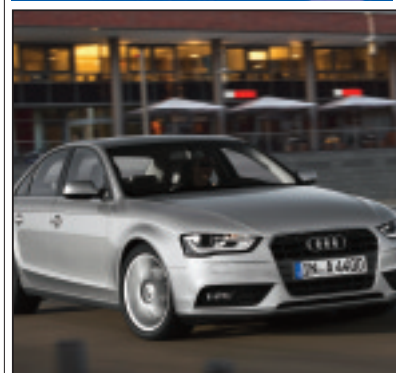
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Win a ride in an Aston Martin and free use of one of the latest Audis

A RIDE in an Aston Martin and £1,000 to spend on a holiday are on offer to someone aged between 10 and 16 for writing a short story.

And the winner's mum or dad will have the pick of the current Audi car range, free for a week.

The prizes comes from the Midland Group of Motoring Writers and are in memory of one of its members, the late Phil Llewellyn from Oswestry, who contributed to magazines all around the world.

The Phil Llewellyn Award is aimed at budding motoring writers.

To enter, write a story of about 500 words on "my perfect car and the journey I'd take in it". Then email your story to brian.vertigen@btinternet.com

Closing date is January 8, 2012. Please include your full

name, date of birth, home address and telephone number.

A trophy and the prize package will be presented to the winner in the new year.

You can see the current winner at mgmw.co.uk

Midland Group chairman Ian Donaldson said: "The most recent winner of the competition has just got back from a holiday in Italy, paid for by the £1,000 of travel vouchers she won in the competition."

Fantastic

"Her mum and dad loved their week in a new Audi cabriolet and the winner is still talking about the trip to Aston Martin's HQ and a ride in one of the company's fantastic cars with a test driver at the wheel."

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06 06	PEUGEOT 307 1.4 S 5-dr, Red, 47k, FSH	£3999
06 06	CITROEN PICASSO 1.6 EXCLUSIVE One owner, 49k, Black, Alloys, AC	£3999
06 06	VW PASSAT 1.9 TDI S DIESEL Blue, Alloys, FSH, 74k	£5499
05 55	FORD FIESTA 1.25 ZETEC CLIMATE 5-dr, one owner	£3799
05 55	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 16v CLUB 5-dr, Silver, alloys, 51k, FSH	£3999
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Motability



Dealer is ready to host its special weekend



There is a very special weekend planned for Mercedes-Benz Retail Used Cars



This weekend's offers include two years' free servicing on most Mercedes models



There are more than 400 on-site cars at the dealership

THE Midlands' largest approved used Mercedes-Benz dealer is opening its doors for a special offer weekend at 9am tomorrow, Friday, November 25.

Offering unrivalled choice with more than 400 cars on site, most previously owned by Mercedes-Benz staff or company car drivers and starting from just £6,990, it's worth a visit if you're thinking of an early Christmas treat.

Dealer principal Adam McCullagh is looking forward to it. He said: "This is a really exciting time for Mercedes-Benz Retail Used Cars with more choice than ever before."

"We now have 400 cars on site, all ready to test drive. We've brought in a children's entertainer and refreshments for the weekend, so it's a great time to have a browse, knowing the kids will be happy, too."

Established in 2000 as Mercedes-Benz Direct, Mercedes-Benz Retail Used Cars, is owned by Mercedes-Benz UK, so clients have the reassurance of buying direct from the manufacturer.

The approved used programme offers even more peace of mind with every car having a full service history, mileage guarantees, 12 months' warranty and more than 100 pre-sale checks carried out.

The deal can be tailored around what you require, with all makes and models taken in part exchange, and competitive valuations making an upgrade even more attractive.

Stylish

With weekly price checks to ensure that every car is competitively priced, whether you're looking for a compact A-Class, a roomy C-Class Estate or a stylish E-Class cabriolet, the Approved Used Mercedes-Benz that suits your needs and your budget can be found in Erdington.

The company is so confident about its prices that it will even search the internet with you to see if anyone else is offering the same car for less.

This weekend the offers are as stunning as their cars with two years' free servicing on most models available from Friday to Monday, November 28.

So with expert business managers to arrange funding and seven days' free insurance, you could be driving away in your new Mercedes knowing you've got a great deal and don't even have to worry about servicing.

And even if you don't buy this weekend, you can take advantage of the new brushless car wash system and drive away with your car looking showroom clean.

Located in Erdington, on the A38 Tyburn Road the dealership is open Monday to Friday from 9am until 7pm, Saturday from 9am to 6pm, and on Sunday from 11am until 5pm.

Mercedes-Benz invented the motorcar 125 years ago and has been perfecting it ever since.

Mercedes-Benz Retail Used Cars Birmingham thinks it has perfected the used car buying experience so visit this weekend to find out.

"The sales team is really looking forward to an exciting few days," adds Adam.

The Midlands Largest Approved Used Mercedes-Benz Dealer invites you to our Special Offer Weekend.

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25 - 28 November 2011

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- Children's entertainment
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*Offer applies to Approved Used Mercedes-Benz vehicles purchased at participating Mercedes-Benz Retail Group locations between 25-28 November 2011. Offer applies to two consecutive scheduled services undertaken at a Mercedes-Benz Retail workshop only. Vehicles must be delivered by 10 December 2011. Offer excludes all AMG products and V8 engine models, GL-Class, R-Class, CL-Class, S-Class and SL-Class models. No cash alternative. ΔCar wash subject to availability. **Mercedes-Benz Insurance may decline to quote in some circumstances. *Prices correct at time of print. Finance example based on a Mercedes-Benz Agility agreement, 10,000 miles per annum. Excess mileage charges may apply. Please ask a member of our Sales Team for more details. Finance is subject to status and only available to over 18s. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Written details are available on request. †Payable if you exercise the option to purchase the car. ††Includes optional purchase payment and purchase activation fee. Available while stocks last. Offer may be withdrawn at any time. Full terms and conditions are available on request. Calls may be recorded. Registered Office: Mercedes-Benz Retail Group UK Ltd, Tongwell, Milton Keynes MK15 8BA.

Whilst this offer is only available through Mercedes-Benz Financial Services UK Limited, we do arrange finance on behalf of other companies as well.

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LOST - Black/white Cat, large bushy tail, last seen Lower Prestwood Road, Wednesfield, November 9. 07948 795188.
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personal

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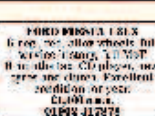


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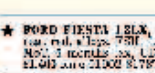


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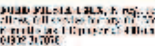


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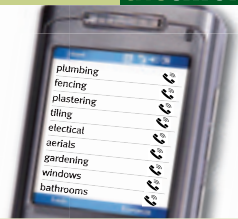
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Heathens delighted to be hosting top race meeting

Dudley Heathens will stage one of the biggest meetings on the domestic calendar next season. The former Cradley club have been handed the 2012 British Under-21 Final which they will host on behalf of the British Speedway Promoters' Association at their temporary Wolverhampton home.

Club bosses applied for the meeting at the sport's annual meeting last weekend and they were picked as hosts ahead of several other clubs. Proud club chairman Nigel Pearson said: "We are naturally thrilled with this news."

"The main reason behind us getting this national event is the level of support enjoyed by

the club. "It is also recognition of the thoroughly professional way we try and do things, the way we promote the club throughout the area and continue to spread the good news message."

"We have slowly but surely gained respect in the corridors of power in British Speedway."

Potential

"We haven't just turned out to be a one-season wonder, we are already preparing for our third season and there are things happening behind the scenes with a view to a new stadium. Once again this just underlines to the people of Dudley, Cradley and surrounding areas what poten-

tial there is for this club to go a step forward if and when a new stadium comes about."

Pearson will be alongside co-promoter Gary Patchett and team boss Will Pottinger at the club's winter talk-in this Friday when the first member of the 2012 team will be announced.

The event takes place at the club's Cradley Heath Liberal Club base from 8pm. Admission is £2 on the door. Season tickets will also be on sale at the discounted rate before December 31 of £110 adults, £70 concessions and children £25. Another signing is expected to be unveiled when HSSC and Heathens hold their joint Christmas Party on Saturday, December 10.

Tom's hat-trick leads the way as 1sts claim double wins

HOCKEY

DROITWICH 0 OHHC 1ST XI 5

Old Halesonians 1st XI cruised to a 5-0 away victory against a struggling Droitwich side with Paul Woodall leading the way with a hat-trick.

He opened the scoring early on, after Tom Bulteel dribbled his way through the Droitwich defence, to find Woodall for an easy finish.

Bulteel got his name on the score sheet soon after, when a thrilling passing move with Marc Herickx split the defence open and left the two strikers with an easy pass around the keeper. Bulteel had no problems slotting the ball into an empty net, giving Hales a 2-0 lead.

Old Halesonians dominated and with the home side pinned in, the visitors struck again before half time when Woodall got his second.

An inch perfect through ball from Mark Curzon found the sliding Woodall at the back post and he directed the ball into the goal.

The Hales side continued their domination into the second half. Graham Knight found the net when Herickx picked out his fellow striker, who fired

home past a helpless Droitwich keeper.

At 4-0, the game was all but over and Hales were able to find a fifth goal when man of the match Woodall completed his hat-trick in fine style, with another sliding goal at the back post, with the assist from Bulteel.

WOLVERHAMPTON 0 OHHC 1ST XI 3 (ENGLAND HOCKEY MEN'S TROPHY ROUND 3)

The 1sts beat a weakened Wolverhampton side on Sunday, to put themselves into round four.

Hales dominated their second fixture of the weekend, with Wolverhampton struggling to find a way past the visitors' defence.

Goals from Tom Bulteel and Paul Woodall saw Old Hales 2-0 up at half time.

Bulteel claimed another in the second half before Wolverhampton's only chance, a reverse stick shot, was palmed away with ease by goalkeeper Steve Charlton.

ANOTHER CLEAN SHEET CAME WITH EASE.

OHHC 2ND XI 3 KHALSA 2

The 2nds XI returned to action this week with a 3-2 victory over Khalsa. Hales, who were without captain Steve Charlton, fought hard in a gritty but determined performance to earn themselves a much deserved victory. The



Hat-trick hero Paul Woodall, whose goals set up the 1sts' 5-0 victory

game started with several Khalsa players missing. Old Hales quickly took advantage of this, capitalising on their possession with a well-worked goal within a minute of the push back.

Ash Greaves drove down the right hand side of the D, then played in Nick Truelove, who slotted it passed a dazzled Khalsa goalkeeper.

Khalsa drew level with a successful penalty flick conversion awarded after the visitors forward was impeded after trying to shoot at goal. After a rousing

second half team, the home side attacked quickly again with Tom Bolton putting in the leg work out wide.

His pass found Nathan Kelly, who composed himself before, finding Truelove to bag his second.

During a tough tackling part of the game Old Hales' Jake Brooke got shown yellow after a physical challenge.

The away side benefited from Hales being a man down to draw level.

But with less than two minutes remaining, the Khalsa defence crum-

pled as Kelly's pass found Greaves, who buried the ball into the goal.

BRIDGNORTH 2 OHHC 3RD XI 0

Bridgnorth beat a weakened Hales side, who struggled due to availability problems.

OHHC 4TH XI 4 BARFORD TIGERS 2

The 10 men of Old Hales surprisingly dominated this game which saw goals from Chris Jones, Darren Rose, Craig Bray and Paul Robinson.

STRATFORD 1 OHHC 5TH XI 2

The 10 young men of Old Halesonians beat an experienced Stratford side. With only one player over the age of 18, Hales easily saw off Stratford.

After a goalless first half Old Hales got the goal they deserved when Mike Link found Josh Thomas in the D. He calmly flicked the ball into the net, giving him his sixth goal in as many games.

A penalty corner saw Hales double their lead, after a scrappy routine saw the ball fall to Ash Underhill, who found the goal.

Stratford finally started to test the Old Hales' excellent defence, and they got a goal back off a penalty corner.

OHHC BADGERS 2-0 BOURNVILLE

Ludlow 3-0 OHHC LADIES

Halas Hawks round-up

GIRLS LEAGUE WITHYMOOR COLTS 4 HALAS HAWKS 1

Halas Hawks U13s were one down against Withy-moor within a minute of the start and let in another two before half-time, but they never let their heads drop. Withy-moor got a fourth before Amy Plimmer combined with Amy Sargent for the latter to grab a consolation.

WORDSLEY WASPS 0 HALAS HAWKS 3

A first half brace from Kate Drew for the U16s was added to by Liz McAleenan. Middlefielder, Kate Hunnisett took play of the match.

BOYS LEAGUE HALAS HAWKS WEST 3 KEWFORD SOUTH 0

The U9s West largely dominated against Kewford Eagles South. Man of the match Harvey Brookes scored twice. Jayke Adams scored a fine solo effort.

KEWFORD EAGLES 3 HALAS HAWKS EAST 3

The U9s East got off to a slow start and went two goals behind to a determined Kewford side. The second half was end-to-end action with the Halas boys getting back to level terms before mistake saw Kewford retake the lead before a brilliant individual goal from Jack Plant gave him his hat-trick and a fair 3-3 draw.

HALAS HAWKS EAST 3 PENN COLTS 2

Halas U10s started brightly but were kept at bay by some great saves from the Penn keeper. Louie Jones put them in front with a long range strike. Penn drew level but Charlie Greening regained the lead with a penalty then Penn drew level again. The winning goal came when Greening got his second. Man of the match went to Donovan Westwood.

GORNAL COLTS NORTH 0 HALAS HAWKS WEST 3

The U11s West travelled to Gornal North and in a game between two evenly matched teams, came away with a 3-0 win with two goals from Callum Hudson, including a penalty, and Jack Bissell. Strong defending from George Shingleton and Jack Clews made sure their was no reply. Man of the match went to Hudson.

FOREST FALCONS 1 HALAS HAWKS 4

The U14s went a goal behind to a strong Falcons team, before Adam Higginson equalised. Halas began to take control in the second half with goals from Michael Eaton and Josh Mason on his full team debut. Tom Bagley sealed the win. Man of the match went to Jack Bagley for a fine midfield performance.

WOMBOURNE 3 HALAS HAWKS 3

The U17s went one up through Matt Ross but then throw it all away and were 2-1 down at half-time. The second half saw a stunning equaliser from Mitch Wells but Wombourne retook the lead again taking the lead and looking to hold on for the win, but a determined Halas side equalized again through Alex Chappel with only minutes left, forcing a penalty shoot out. Unfortunately Halas lost 5-4 on penalties.

HALAS 3 PENNETT PANTHERS 2

The U18s cup game started at a fast pace with Halas taking a 3-0 lead in the first 12 minutes through a Brad Hickman hat-trick. Pennsett battled hard and repelled with two goals before the half time break.

HALAS LADIES

HALAS LADIES & TYPION 0 Halas Hawks Ladies were always in control, with four goals from Gemma Colledge and a brace each for Katie Monk and Jodie Jones.

GETTING BETTER BUT NO REWARD

Hasbury make it two in a row



Hasbury under 13s, back row, George Taylor, Bailey Blackford, Jimmy Williams, Redford Palmer, Zac Smith, Dan Payne, Harry Field, Nathan Foley; front row Benjamin Gainham, Sam Briscoe, Connor Hoban, Jordan Harris, Jake Humphreys, Josh Williams, Adam Smith, Luke Brettie

STOURBRIDGE UNDER 13S DIVISION 1

HALAS HAWKS 2 HASBURY RANGERS 4

This was the second meeting of the teams within a week and once again Hasbury came out winners. After early Halas running, Hasbury started to boss proceedings and should have opened the scoring but Jordan Harris miscued with the net gapping. They won a foul just outside the area for a reckless challenge and Jimmy Williams hit his trademark free kick for the first goal.

Within 10 minutes of the start of the

second half Hasbury were three goals up through Adam Smith and George Taylor.

As Hasbury let up, Halas got back into the game and scored from a corner. But Hasbury got their fourth, and best, with five players involved in a move that produced some lovely one-touch football.

The final ball fell to Williams and from about 12 yards out he smashed a shot the keeper could only palm into the net. In the final five minutes Halas went for broke and got their second but Hasbury held out.

Man of the match went to George Taylor.

Night to wrestle

Stars of the Alternative Wrestling World will make their return to the Haden Hill Leisure Centre on Saturday. The venue, in Barrs Road, Cradley Heath, has seen its fair share of action, but that will all pale in comparison when AWW crash land. Tickets are available from the centre for £7 each if bought in advance, or £8 on the night. Doors open at 6pm and the show starts at 6.30pm.

An improved Halesowen performance failed to bring any rewards after Gosport edged to victory with a late penalty in an absorbing contest.

Boro' grabbed an early lead in the first ever meeting between the clubs when Liam Sewell slotted past goalkeeper Paul Evans from close range after latching onto the rebound from James Ford's blocked shot with just four minutes gone.

However, Halesowen restored parity after being awarded a spot-kick on 12 minutes when Lee Molyneux brought down new recruit Nathan Jones.

Lee Chilton made no mistake from 12 yards.

Much-travelled former Blues striker Steve Claridge was absent from the Gosport line-up through injury and the home side's worries worsened when Sewell limped off to be replaced by Callum Laycock, currently the top scorer for the reserve team.

The Yeltz also had their fair share of injury worries with Michael McGrath struck by a ricochet off Laycock, leaving him doubled up in agony and in need of treatment.

Gosport threatened again in the 28th minute when Molyneux's downward header forced Evans into a smart save.

Chilton's deflected shot then won a Halesowen corner and from the set-piece Gavin Saunders' header brought a smart save from Nathan Ashmore as the game swung from end to end up to half-time. Hale-

GOSPORT BOROUGH 2 HALESOWEN TOWN 1

sowen continued to look dangerous going forward and began the second half quickly with some slick foot-ball putting Boro' on the back foot.

But the injury curse struck again with Jones requiring lengthy treatment in the Gosport penalty area. Justin Nisbett looked lively for the Yeltz and Jones forced another good save from Ashmore as the visitors created a series of half chances.

As Gosport then began to exert pressure, Evans saved at full stretch from Laycock. But in-form Gosport secured all three points when top scorer Justin Bennett tucked home an 80th minute penalty after starman Nathan Kirby was brought down by Smith.

For the fifth time this season, Halesowen ended the game with 10 men when Peter Folkes was sent off with five minutes remaining for a second yellow card.

After an initial foul on Kirby, Folkes booted the ball away and then lost his cool with the referee.

Hooper is super in bonus victory

OLD HALESONIANS 34 LICHFIELD 0

Old Halesonians maintained pressure on the leading pack with a 34-0 bonus point win at home to Lichfield.

Both sides went into the game believing they could win having taken points of each other in last seasons matches.

Old Hales enjoyed the majority of the opening exchanges but were let off as the visiting side failed to take advantage of ill discipline by missing two penalties.

The home team replied with a penalty of their own soon after from full back Chris Hooper, who went on to record a 19 point haul.

Old Halesonians dominated the remaining first half with three quick and well-worked tries.

Centre Andy Robinson scored the first following a sustained period of pressure and numerous phases.

The other tries came from Hooper and hooker Keiran Price, scoring on his debut.

Both of which were as a result of forced errors created by good pressure defence from the home side. Hooper converted two of them.

Fought

Lichfield started the second half with added gusto and had the majority of territory.

But Old Hales defensive effort should be applauded as it was clear they would not give up points without a fight.

Lichfield were left down hearted when further excellent defence from one to 15 provided a turnover for Hooper to scoot away for another try.

The remainder of the match was fought in between the halfway and home sides 20 metre line with Lichfield making a valiant effort but could just not break down the wall of defence in their path.

The last act of the match saw Lichfield pressing to find consolation try only for another defensive turnover.

This allowed winger Simon Sable to show pace from his own half and touch down near to the posts.

With Hooper converting this left the home side with a 34-0 bonus point victory. Following Walsall's loss this takes Old Halesonians to third in the league.

The Halesowen Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford, Shropshire. Thursday, November 24, 2011.

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